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TEACHER'S APPEAL

Reasons Why Salaries Should Be Increased.

SOME FACTS BRIEFLY STATED

If the School Board Consider the Salaries Paid Are Not Commensurate With the Increased Cost of Living, the Prayers of Teachers Will Be Granted.

The following petition, directed to the tax payers of Astoria, has been presented to this office with a request that it be published in order that the friends of the public schools may understand the condition of affairs. To the Tax Payers and the Patrons of the Schools:

We, the teachers of the Astoria schools, wish to state to the tax payers and the patrons of the city of Astoria that for more than a year, the teachers of the city have been attempting to have the salaries of teachers placed at figures commensurate with the living expenses here, and with the salaries of the teachers of other places in the state.

One year ago at our county institute the subject was agitated by both the state superintendent and the other instructors, and was thoroughly discussed by instructors and teachers. The teachers were urged to claim their rights in the matter, not on their own account, alone, but professionally, in sympathy with teachers, not only in the state of Oregon, but also all over the United States.

At this meeting we were told that the state per capita tax had been raised in order to benefit teachers. The tax payers will remember that at about that time the school tax levy was decreased, the per capita tax benefiting the tax payers instead of the teachers. This decrease in taxation would about cover the 20 per cent requested by the teachers in the petition following.

The result of the agitation begun at the institute was that a year ago, a petition requesting an increase in salaries, was signed by all of the teachers, and presented to the board, June, 1904.

Later the papers announced that teachers' salaries had been raised. This was believed by the majority of the teachers to be a general and a material increase, until the opening of the fall term, when it was ascertained that the increase was slight, ranging from two to five dollars, and that this had been granted in only a few cases.

The teachers then supposed that matters would be arranged satisfactorily at the tax meeting, December, 1904, by requesting a larger appropriation for school purposes. This was not done.

The next move of the teachers was December, 1904, when they requested a joint meeting of the board and teachers. They were promised a meeting which after weeks of delay was finally granted the first of February, 1905.

At this meeting a second petition was presented to the board. After holding the matter under consideration for almost two months, the board replied that they regretted exceedingly that they were unable to grant the request at this time and notwithstanding the fact that a petition had been presented, June, 1904, they further stated that had the matter been taken up at the annual meeting of the tax payers and a levy made sufficient to have allowed the increase that they should have been very glad to comply with the request of the teachers.

The following is the petition presented to the board, February, 1905. Mr. Chairman, Honorable Members of the School Board:

We are to speak to you concerning a subject in which we, the teachers present from the lowest to the highest grade, together with the principals and superintendent, are intensely interested, a subject in which we believe you, also, are interested.

Judging from the patience with which you have listened to us in the past, we have reason to believe that you will again listen to a recital of our grievances, which we will lay before you; and we further believe that you will do all in your power to remove any cause for such grievances.

We come not as strikers, but as petitioners. You no-doubt anticipate that the object of such a petition is a general increase in salaries. Similar petitions have been presented by the teachers of other cities in the state, and many have been granted.

There are several points concerning the matter in hand which we wish to impress upon your minds:

First—The expense of living in Astoria is at least one-third higher than in Portland or the valley towns—Eugene, Albany, Salem and others. Three years ago good boarding and lodging were secured in the valley towns at from \$12 to \$14 per month, the equal of which could be secured here for not less than from \$25 to \$32; while or-

inary boarding and lodging here was at least \$21.50 in boarding houses and could not be secured at all in desirable private homes. The above is based on our own experiences and that of others. East of the mountains the expense of living is less than it is here, but we are not prepared to state how much less.

Second—According to our own experiences and to authentic statistics, the general cost of living is 51 per cent higher than it was seven years ago.

Third—Astoria ranks next to Portland in population and in importance, and should rank so in the salaries of her teachers.

Fourth—The salaries of teachers in other leading places, either have been and are yet higher than in Astoria, or are so in proportion to the expense of living. We shall here quote you the salaries of a few other cities in the state:

Salem, which is noted for her low salaries, now pays to her graduate teachers from \$45 to \$60 per month, a salary which is, considering the less expense of living there, equivalent to from \$50 to \$90 per month here. Only last year Salem was obliged to advertise for teachers. She can scarcely be said to have a high school. We do not know what she pays her teachers above the eighth grade.

We were informed last year that there was an increase of \$20 per month for that department. Salem is now considering a further advance in salary.

The Dalles pays from \$50 to \$60 per month to grade teachers, and from \$65 to \$95 per month to high school teachers.

Pendleton pays from \$50 to \$65 per month to grade teachers, and from \$75 to \$90 per month to high school teachers. Pendleton expects to raise salaries this year.

Baker City pays from \$60 to \$75 to grade teachers and from \$85 to \$105 to high school teachers. Baker City offers indefinite advancement of salary to teachers in proportion to merit. There are no limits. They are not obliged to advertise for teachers.

Portland grade teachers receive \$550 in the 2d, 3d and 4th grades if they have had only two years' experience, and as they increase this to five years' experience, the salary rises to \$650. Similarly the 1st, 5th and 6th grade teachers receive \$600 to \$700 a year. The 7th, 8th and 9th grade teachers receive from \$650 to \$750. As most of the teachers have had the full experience required, most of them receive the maximum salary, which is: 2d, 3d and 4th, \$650; 1st, 5th and 6th, \$700; 7th, 8th and 9th, \$750. The salary is now about to be raised. (The salaries have been raised since the reading of this petition.) There is dissatisfaction in Portland with the payment of lower salaries in the 2d, 3d and 4th grades than in the others. It is said to concentrate the poor teachers into these grades.

Portland pays from \$900 to \$1000 per year to its high school teachers, \$1000 being the salary of all who have had more than five years' experience, which includes almost all of them. According to the new schedule the salaries are from \$950 to \$1050.

The salaries of superintendents in the above named places are: Salem, \$1200 and the superintendent is free to lecture at institutes, taking three or four days off at a time, which yields him \$300 a year more, making the equivalent of a \$1500 salary. The Dalles paid \$1440 last year, but \$1600 this year. Pendleton pays \$1500; and Baker City \$1300.

Fifth—The salaries of officials of this county and of this city have been raised. We do not object to this, but consider that our work is fully as important as is any of the county or the city officials; and that our requisite should meet with results similar to theirs. It has been fitly said that policemen receive more for cracking skulls than do teachers for improving what is in them. The salary of the city auditor and police judge was increased recently from \$1500 to \$1800, an increase of 20 per cent.

The salary of the city treasurer was raised from \$60 to \$75 per month, an increase of 25 per cent. The salaries of the policemen were increased last year. The city officials are required to work only six hours per day, and usually do not work longer than this.

The salaries of the sheriff and the clerk of Clatsop county have been increased from \$1500 to \$2000 each, an increase of 33 1-3 per cent. The county deputies for sheriff and clerk each receive \$100 per month for working eight hours per day, with a chance to work overtime and to receive extra pay for the same. The salary of the county judge has been raised from \$900 to \$1200, an increase of 33 1-3. The bill to have the salary of the assessor raised from \$900 to \$1800, an increase of 100 per cent, was passed. The legislature has been very generous in the matter of raising salaries. You will note that the increase ranges from 20 per cent to 100 per cent; and in only one of the above named instances is it as low as 20 per cent.

Sixth—Several years ago, at the time of the financial crisis in Astoria, the salaries of teachers were cut and were not restored to their former figures.

Seventh—Wages have risen. The laborer, often unskilled, receives more money for his labor than does the teacher who have spent hundreds of

(Continued on Page 4.)

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Astorian Free Want Ads.

Anyone Desiring a Situation can Insert an Advertisement in this Column of Three Lines Two Times Free of Charge.

MISCELLANEOUS.

CALL FOR WARRANTS.—NOTICE

is hereby given to all parties holding Clatsop County warrants, indorsed prior to June 1, 1904, to present the same to the county treasurer at his office, 590-592 Commercial St., for payment. Interest ceases after this date.

CHAS. A. HEILBORN,

County Treasurer.

Dated, Astoria, Oregon, this 27th day of March, 1905.

LOST AND FOUND.

IMMIGRATION CERTIFICATE NO

54446, in name of Chong Hon Tin, No. 5346; anyone returning to Hop Hing Lung Co. will receive \$5 reward.

PICKED UP OPPOSITE HAN-

thorn's cannery, a skiff, bearing the name of "S. S. E. L. Held." For information apply to R. G. Davey, 1924 Commercial St., Astoria.

FOR SALE—MISCELLANEOUS.

NCUBATOR FOR SALE—400 EGGS capacity; also three 100 capacity brooders; first-class condition. Address A. Astorian Office.

FOR SALE—STEAM TUG IN FIRST-class condition; terms reasonable; suitable for seining purposes. For particulars apply at this office.

SCOW FOR SALE AT MCGREGOR'S mill, 22x64; would make a good fish scow. Inquire of Dan Gambel at mill.

OLD PAPERS FOR SALE AT THIS Office; 25c per hundred.

ROOMS WANTED.

HOUSE OF 4 OR 5 ROOMS WANTED in good neighborhood. Convenient to center of town; rent reasonable; permanent. Address Emil Held, care The Astorian.

FOR SALE—REAL ESTATE.

160 ACRES OF FIRST CLASS TIMBER land for sale, in Pacific county, near Columbia river. Address Box 690 Astoria, Ore.

FOR SALE—LOT 1, BLOCK 14, Adair's Astoria; for particulars write to J. P. Miller, Onieda, Wash.

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WANTED—COMPETENT WOMAN cook. Apply at 593 Commercial; up stairs.

WANTED—MEN TO LEARN BARBER trade; 8 weeks completes; positions guaranteed; tuition earned while learning. Write for terms. Moler's Barber College, 644 Clay St., San Francisco.

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MAX STRAEL & CO., EMPLOYMENT office, 535 Bond St. Phone Red 2301. All kinds of help furnished on short notice. Call or phone.

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Insanity,
Death or Health?

No. 207 Locust Street,
St. Louis, Mo., March 22, 1905.

I was a victim of sleeplessness and extreme nervousness for eighteen months, unable to get a proper night's rest and feeling tired and worn out continually. I was easily irritated and hysterical at the slightest provocation, but Wine of Cardui gave me great relief. Within a week after I began using it I had my first real good night's rest that I had had for months. My appetite was soon restored, my general system toned up and nervousness became a thing of the past. I am so pleased to acknowledge the great curative merit of your health giving medicine and gladly endorse it.

Herriet O. Best
CHAIRMAN, LADIES OF HONOR, No. 2.

WINE of CARDUI

We want to call your attention to the complete and immediate relief Mrs. Best secured by taking Wine of Cardui. Within a week after she began taking Wine of Cardui, Mrs. Best had her first good night's rest for eighteen months. Her restlessness was caused by nervousness and Wine of Cardui, as the best menstrual regulator, has no superior in the world as a medicine to soothe a woman's nerves. Nervousness and hysteria are warnings of the approach of insanity and if relief is not secured the end can only be the asylum or the grave. With such an outlook as this before her, no suffering woman can reasonably refuse to give Wine of Cardui a trial. It brings a cure that thousands of women have sought for in vain. Will you secure a bottle of Wine of Cardui today and start treatment? All druggists sell \$1.00 bottles Wine of Cardui.

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